

CHAPTER 16: THE EVOLUTION OF CULTURES

1. Some people even go so far as to deny its importance, like the anthropologist Laura Betzig, who states straightforwardly in a scholarly book, “Personally, I find culture useless.” Betzig, L. L., *Human Nature: A Critical Reader*, Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 17. Quoted in Richerson, P. J., & Boyd, R. (2004). *Op. cit.*, p. 19.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 5.
3. Tomasello, M., *Why We Cooperate*, MIT Press, 2009, p. xiv.
4. *Ibid.*, p. x.
5. Richerson, P. J., & Boyd, R. (2004). *Op. cit.*, p. 6.
6. Boyd, R., & Richerson, P. J. (1976). A simple dual inheritance model of the conflict between social and biological evolution. *Zygon*®, 11(3), 254–262, along with their principal book, *Not by Genes Alone* (2004). *Op. cit.*
7. Lydens, L.A. “A Longitudinal Study of Crosscultural Adoption: Identity Development Among Asian Adoptees at Adolescence and Early Adulthood.” Northwestern University, 1988. Quoted in Richerson, P. J., & Boyd, R. (2004). *Op. cit.*, p. 39–42.
8. Heard, J. N., & Norman, J., *White into Red: A Study of the Assimilation of White Persons Captured by Indians*. Scarecrow Press, 1973. Quoted in Richerson, P. J., & Boyd, R. (2004). *Op. cit.*, pp. 41–42.
9. According to Richerson, P. J., & Boyd, R. (2004). *Op. cit.*, pp. 139–145, the development of social learning, unique to humans, which is the foundation for the evolution of cultures, could have had as a catalyst unprecedented climatic fluctuations that dominated the second half of the Pleistocene era during the last 500,000 years. There is in fact a correlation between climatic variations and an increase in the volume of the brain in hominids and a number of mammals, which increases their ability to adopt new behavior and, in the case of hominids, to make new tools and acquire transmissible knowledge. Hominids began to make tools about 2.6 million years ago, but these tools changed very little for a long time. Then, 250,000 years ago, the number and especially variety of tools suddenly increased. Finally, 50,000 years ago, the humans of Africa spread throughout the world. See Hofreiter, M., Serre, D., Poinar, H. N., Kuch, M., Pääbo, S., *et al.* (2001), Ancient DNA. *Nature Reviews Genetics*, 2(5), 353–359. Cited in Richerson, P. J., & Boyd, R. (2004). *Op. cit.*, p. 143.